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Lessons Learned

7/15/2010

I found this class to be extremely useful to introducing me to many of the new tools that technology has provided and how to implement them in the classroom. Most of the tools presented in this class were helpful in some way. I also felt that the information presented will help me balance the major question of the class, how to balance teaching, pedagogy, and technology all in one. I found this class to be very useful and I will take a lot of what I learned from this class into my future classroom.

I will definitely be using most of the tools presented in this class. The major ones I will be using are Protopage, Wikispace, BlogSpot, and Rubistar. I loved how Wikispace allowed me to really generate my own environment full of files and pictures of my choosing. The one thing I wish it had was a more robust discussion board system so I can create and monitor classroom discussions from the wiki. However this problem can be countered by either using Blackboard or creating an online discussion board somewhere else. Both are doable but I don’t want to add to the number of websites to dramatically otherwise students could become confused. I found the Protopage to be useful for keeping students up to date with some information and providing them a central place to gather and use information. Other than that though it has some file and video limitations that Wikispace accommodates for. Blogspot is something I will use in every class I have. I used it when I was student teaching and parents loved it. With some tweaks I can make it a central focus in the class. I could go on and on about the tools presented in this class but overall these are the tools I will be using most often and will have the greatest impact on my teaching method.

Now for answering the big question, I think the balance is more of a mutually supporting structure than a balancing act that needs to be monitored. Learning what pedagogical standpoint you take is essential to designing your instruction and then developing technology that enhances your instruction. Without a strong support on any one of these I believe one is going to have problems. My goal is to constantly assess what I am doing in the classroom (Survey Monkey will help here) and make adjustments based on new information. Hopefully by doing this, I will create a classroom that is fun, engaging, and educational for my students.

Overall, I learned quite a bit from this class. I will be taking many of the tools from this class and implementing them in my classroom. I will also be constantly developing and maintaining my practice to match my pedagogical philosophy in both my teaching and implementation of technology. My only regret, that this class was not offered sooner in the program.